



JOHN SCOTTUS SECONDARY SCHOOL

OLD CONNA, FERNDALE ROAD, RATHMICHAEL, CO. DUBLIN.
TEL: (01) 6680828,
E-MAIL: SECONDARY@JOHNSCOTTUS.IE WEB: WWW.JOHNSCOTTUS.IE

November 30, 2021

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

I hope your sons and daughters have had an enjoyable first two months of school. Here are some notices that may be of interest:

Philosophy Themes

To provoke discussion and thought, some of the themes for the past few weeks have been:

Do I know right from wrong?

Is Beauty a matter of fact or taste?

How do I put into practice the words "May all be happy?"

For more information about the assembly themes, please click [here](#).

Academic

November Assessment

The November assessments finished last week. In mid-December, you will receive a report on your child's engagement in studies since the start of the year. They are the first of the three main assessments that take place each year. More information on when to access these reports will follow in due course.

Covid-19

There have been several cases of Covid-19 within the school community in the last few weeks. We ask that if a student is showing symptoms, however minor, they do not come to school.

As a reminder, here are the Covid symptoms:

Common symptoms of coronavirus include:

- A fever (high temperature - 38 degrees Celsius or above).
- A new cough - this can be any kind of cough, not just dry.
- Shortness of breath or breathing difficulties.
- loss or change in your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal
- Fatigue
- Aches and Pains

Other uncommon symptoms of coronavirus include:

- Sore throat
- Headaches
- Runny or stuffy noses
- Feeling sick or vomiting
- Diarrhoea

If a student is showing signs of any Covid related symptoms, the school protocol is to send them to the isolation room and phone home to collect them. We advise at this point to follow the HSE guidelines.

If a student is tested because of symptoms of COVID-19 and gets a negative result, the HSE guidance is to [self-isolate](#) until there have not been any symptoms for 48 hours. Students can return to school when they have not had symptoms for 48 hours.

For further information on parent-focused public health advice about COVID-19 symptoms, please see [here](#).

For information about a child being a close contact, please see [here](#).

Parent Representatives for the Board of Management

The parent body voted for Ashkan Aryan and Richard Mc Guinness to be nominated to the Board of Management as parent representatives.

1st year enrollment August 2022

We are delighted to see such great interest in our school. We will be enrolling two classes of students into 1st year next year. Both classes are full, and we already have a waiting list.

School Events

Digital Wellbeing & Online Safety Talk – 7.00 pm, Thursday, December 9

In response to several requests at the Junior Cycle meeting last month, the school has organised two talks on **Digital Wellbeing & Online safety** for students and parents.

- Talk 1, Thursday 9/12/21 in school time for *students of 1st year only*
- Talk 2, Thursday 9/12/21 at 7 pm: *all parents of 1st - 3rd-year students*

[Cybersafekids](#) will facilitate the workshop, and you can visit their website for more information if you wish. We will send out a link for the talk a few days before the event.

Maths and Numeracy Week

Maths Week is an excellent opportunity to bring out the budding mathematician in all of our students, and boy do they get into it. From the first Assembly on Monday, October 18, they began sending in maths jokes and riddles, and there was a general buzz of interest around the school as they exercised their brains to solve them.

To read more about Maths Week, please click [here](#).

Science Week

Science week took place the week of November 7. Some events organised during the week included a whole school Science Quiz Competition. Well done to all winners.

Stand Up Week

In the week beginning November 15, the school celebrated Stand Up Week. The week is a nationwide campaign against LGBTI+ bullying in schools. The week started with our 6th-year students taking Assembly, launching Stand Up Awareness week and introducing everyone to the week's challenge: "Can I choose words that heal, not hurt?"

The week's activities include Door Decoration, Wall of Fame, raising the Progress Pride Flag and "Watch your language" workshops. The week ended with a multi-coloured clothes day which raised funds for BelongTo, a charity that supports LGBTI+ young people in Ireland. Well done to our 6th-year students and Ms Franklin for organising the week.

Green Flag

Our Green Schools Committee received their green flag during the online award ceremony on October 14. During the event, the students enjoyed "green" treats and some even dressed in green. Congratulations to Ms Goldrick, Ms Swan and all the students involved.

Halloween

Our 6th-year leadership team organised a Halloween themed dress-up on Friday, October 22. With the Transition Years, they also organised a cinema fundraiser for the charity called Solèy, which raised money to alleviate period poverty in Haiti. Well done to all students involved for showing great initiative.

Worlds Teacher Day

A big thank you to everyone who celebrated Worlds Teachers Day on October 5. It was great to see all the various shades of yellow and inner lights shining at drop off and pick up! The teachers felt the love and appreciation from the children's messages, and we raised €185 for Pieta house. It is heartening to see our school community come together for these events.

Charity Football tournament – Monday, October 4 – Friday, October 8

Gabriel & Samir and some other enthusiastic volunteers raised an incredible €318 for Soley Haiti last month, organising a football tournament for the whole school. The winners had the privilege of playing a teachers' team in the final. Thanks to some new additions to the teachers' team (Mr Malavecì), the teachers were worthy winners in the end. Well done to our Transition Year students for organising the event.

Sports Update

Athletics: Four boys' teams and one girls' team attended an athletics event for schools on October 21. The girls were up first and ran very strongly, finishing 10th out of 20 teams. Our boys' teams ran second and were led home by Emmanuel, Josh and Sam, who came 3rd out of 20 teams. Athletics training takes place on Tuesday after school from 3:50 - 4:20.

Soccer: Afterschool Soccer takes place on Wednesday from 1:15 pm - 2:15 pm. We aim to get games for a Junior Boys, Senior Boys and Girls team. These games will also begin after the midterm break.

Hockey: Our 1st and 2nd-year girls' hockey team have been entered in a schoolgirl's hockey league. Training for hockey takes place Wednesday after school from 1:15 pm - 2:15 pm and is open to all.

Frisbee: Frisbee training is open to all students in school and is currently happening on Thursdays at lunchtime. Frisbee games should commence shortly. The league organisers are presently awaiting updates on restrictions.

Basketball: Basketball training is on Fridays at lunchtime and is open to all students. Basketball is quite a new sport for many students, and we will organise some games for later in the year.

Philosophical thought for the day

"If you want to be happy, be." – Henry David Thoreau

Summary of Events coming up

Digital Wellbeing & Online Safety Talk – 7.00 pm, Thursday, December 9

End of Term – 12.45 pm, Wednesday, December 22

School Re-opens – Thursday, January 6

Parent-Class Teacher Meetings – Monday, January 10

Yours warmly,



Dr. Declan Kelly

Principal

Phone: 01-6680828

Email: dkelly@johnscottusoldconna.ie